

NASA Advisory Council Finding

Lunar Orbiting Platform

Name of Committee:	Human Exploration and Operations Committee
Chair of Committee:	Mr. Kenneth Bowersox
Date of Council Public Deliberation:	December 10-11, 2018
Short Title of Finding:	Lunar Orbiting Platform

Finding: Space Policy Directive 1 (SPD 1) tasks NASA to lead an innovative and sustainable program of exploration with commercial and international partners to enable human expansion across the solar system and to bring back to Earth new knowledge and opportunities. It also tasks NASA with returning to the moon for long-term exploration and utilization, followed by human missions to Mars and other destinations.

To meet the exploration and science requirements which flow down from SPD 1, NASA has formulated a plan based on establishment of a lunar orbiting platform that will enable international and commercial partnerships, reusability of hardware to transport crews to and from the lunar surface, allow critical access to the lunar polar regions, reduce risk for lunar exploration crews by providing a safe haven, improve communications with spacecraft on the lunar surface, and provide valuable opportunities for scientific investigations, while expanding the knowledge base in the area of deep space maneuvering and solar electric propulsion required for travel to Mars.

The Council strongly endorses NASA's plan for achieving the goals set forth in SPD 1.